

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

Annual Reports

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1954

Medical Officer of Health :

GEORGE A. FULTON, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer to Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics
(Local Health Authority).

Sanitary Inspectors :

Mr. FRANK BURROWS, Royal Sanitary Institute, and
R.S.I. Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Mr. JOHN BRENNAN, Royal Sanitary Institute, and
R.S.I. Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Food Inspectors :

Sanitary Inspectors as above.

Superintendent of Cleansing Department :

Mr. FRANK BURROWS.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
1954.**

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Ashton-in-Makerfield

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the seventy-ninth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1954.

Introduction.

There has been no epidemic of infectious disease this year. Only 173 cases, other than Tuberculosis, being notified against 415 for 1953. Whooping cough accounted for 75 cases in the year under review, compared with 34 in 1953. The climate of the district has been free from extreme variations noted in other parts of the country. Mining subsidence is a problem and is seriously affecting the Sewage Works. There is consequent delay in the conversion from pail closets. Subsidence also limits the suitability of building sites and increases the dilapidation of existing property.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The area is approximately 6,265 acres, on which are 5,816 inhabited houses, containing an estimated population of 19,260, an increase of 227 on the last Census (1951). The Rateable Value of the property is £90,771 and a penny rate produces £352.

The district is bounded on the south and west by Haydock U.D., on the south - west by Billinge U.D., on the north by Wigan County Borough, and on the east by Abram and Golborne U.D.s. The greater part of the district lies over coal measures and Bunter sandstone. Deep and open-cast mining is carried on, together with farming and textile weaving; there is some light engineering. Some of the population find employment in cotton mills, iron foundry, rayon manufacture and in the clothing, catering, bakery and confectionery trades which are outside the district but convenient for travel.

Vital Statistics.

This information is supplied by the Registrar-General. There has been no excessive mortality or any specially noteworthy causes of sickness. The population remains practically unchanged at 19,260 for mid-1954. The Birth and Death Rate comparability factors are respectively 0.97 and 1.12.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	153	131	284
Legitimate	152	131	283
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Still Births	3	8	11
Legitimate	3	7	10
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	5	6	11
Legitimate	5	6	11
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	4	6	10
Legitimate	4	6	10
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population.			
Total (all forms)—			
Crude			11.8
Adjusted			13.2
Respiratory Tuberculosis			0.10
Malignant neoplasms			1.45
Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated population.			
Crude			14.7
Adjusted			14.3
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births			37
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births			—
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births			35
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			39

The death rate is somewhat higher this year and the birth rate is lower. The infant mortality rate and the neo-natal mortality rate are both also lower than in 1953.

The Death Rate for England and Wales (1954) is 11.3 per 1,000 estimated population.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales (1954) is 25.5 per 1,000 live births .

The Neo-natal Mortality Rate for England and Wales (1954) is 17.7 per 1,000 live births .

The Malignant neoplasm Rate for England and Wales (1954) is 2.04 per 1,000 general population

The Respiratory T.B. Rate for England and Wales (1954) is 0.16 per 1,000 general population.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1954.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	Total under one month
Premature Birth, Con- genital Debility and Malformation	6	—	—	6
Bronchopneumonia	2	—	—	2
Enteritis	—	—	—	—
Other causes	3	—	—	3
TOTALS	11	—	—	11

	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total over one month
Premature Birth, Con- genital Debility and Malformation	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchopneumonia	—	1	—	—	1
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	1	—	—	1

Total from all cases—12.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE GENERAL POPULATION.

	MALE Quarters		FEMALE Quarters		T'tls
	1st-3rd	4th	1st-3rd	4th	
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	—	—	—	2
" non-respiratory	—	—	—	1	1
Syphilis	—	—	—	1	1
Other	—	1	—	—	1
Malignant neoplasm—gastric	2	2	2	—	6
" " bronchus	5	1	—	—	6
" " breast	—	—	2	—	2
" " uterus	—	—	1	—	1
" " other	6	3	4	—	13
Diabetes	1	1	1	1	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	3	9	2	25
Coronary disease, angina	25	2	8	—	35
Hypertension without heart disease	2	1	2	1	6
Heart disease, other types	10	6	15	12	43
Circulatory, other types	3	—	4	—	7
Influenza	—	1	—	—	1

Pneumonia	1	2	3	4	10
Bronchitis	6	3	6	4	19
Other respiratory	1	—	—	—	1
Ulcers, stomach, etc.	—	1	—	—	1
Gastritis and enteritis	—	—	1	—	1
Nephritis	1	—	2	—	3
Congenital malformations	1	—	—	1	2
Other defined or ill-defined disease	4	3	12	4	23
Motor vehicle accidents	5	—	—	—	5
Other accidents	2	2	2	1	7
Suicide	2	—	—	—	2
All causes	90	32	74	32	228

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (other than Tuberculosis) corrected, for 1954.

Disease	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED											Total cases of all ages		Total Deaths	
	AGE PERIODS IN YEARS														
	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over	Age un-known					
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	3	11	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or typhoid (excluding paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	—	10	6	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	5	19	27	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis—															
Paralytic	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis—															
Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	3	2	3	2	1	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria—															
Indigenous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abroad	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Any other disease notifiable in district	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Any other at all	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	7	36	48	50	5	2	5	2	—	—	155	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS—New Cases and Mortality during 1954

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
20	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
25	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	
35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
55	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
75 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS		8	4	2	1	1	—	—	
		12		3		1		—	

Infectious Disease

Cases requiring hospitalisation are admitted to Whelley Hospital or Astley and an 'iron lung' is available. There were eighteen cases of Dysentery during the year of the bacillary type Sonne; four cases of paratyphoid fever A. believed to have been contracted outside the district; four cases of poliomyelitis—paralytic type occurred, but all made a good recovery. The failure of polio to spread more widely is considered to be due to the fact that the first case was away from school for a period before manifesting signs of that disease and to the prompt closing of the school classes involved.

Formaldehyde is used for fumigating houses and a steam disinfectant is available at Hindley for the disinfection of clothing. No action has been necessary under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 nor under Section 172 Public Health Act 1936 (orders for compulsory removal to hospital).

Regular sessions for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough are given at the Lancashire County Council Clinic, Queen's Road. Two hundred and seventy-seven pre-school children and sixteen school children received a full course of primary immunisation and in addition, three hundred and sixteen children were given a boosting injection.

Housing

A 'points' scheme for the allocation of houses is in operation and

has been several times modified since it was initiated. During the year one hundred and eight new houses were built by the Local Authority and thirteen by other persons. One hundred and forty-seven houses were overcrowded at the end of the year, three hundred and twenty-seven families representing one thousand, seven hundred and twenty persons were living in these overcrowded houses. Sixty-three cases of overcrowding were reported during the year and sixty-four cases were relieved. Three hundred and forty-seven houses were inspected for defects, involving one thousand, three hundred and seventy-eight inspections. Fifteen houses were found to be unfit for habitation on account of their dangerous state and a further three hundred and two were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

There are more than two hundred houses which require to be dealt with as individual unfit houses or clearance areas. Approximately nine hundred and fifty applications for a house have been received from persons living in lodgings. These figures show that there is no improvement in the housing problem, compared with 1953 and the solution appears to lie in a much greater rate of house building.

The Landgate estate has been completed and sixty-eight houses erected on the Bolton Road site and a further eighty houses are due to be built with two flats and eight bungalows for aged people

Conclusion

I wish to thank the staff of the Department and my colleagues for their help in the effective running of the Sanitary and Health Department. The interest and support of the members of the Council is much appreciated.

Your obedient servant,

G. A. FULTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR 1954

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Ashton-in-Makerfield.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.
Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1954, but regret that owing to pressure of other duties, it should make such a belated appearance.

No improvement can be reported in the condition of the older type of houses. The hopes I entertained last year of the successful operation of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, have not been fulfilled, and I think this feeling is general throughout the country.

Damage to property by mining subsidence is still one of my major worries, and much time is spent in acting as liaison officer between owners and the National Coal Board officials. Prolonged negotiations between these parties causes considerable delay in nuisances being abated, giving rise to vexation by tenants and anxiety to me. Together with the high cost of building repairs, the relatively small number of builders engaged in repair work as opposed to the erection of new buildings, are other factors that cause delay.

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Houses and premises visited during routine inspections and re nuisances and complaints	2,750
Nuisances discovered	1,254
Nuisances abated	1,160
Revisits to nuisances	2,830
Visits re infectious disease	71
Revisits re infectious disease	223
Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale	516
Visits to factories	163
Visits to dairies	18
Visits re licensing and registration (Milk Special Designations), 1949	59

Visits to shops	250
Notices served (Preliminary)	311
Notices served (Statutory)	62
Letters sent	711

Description of Nuisances Dealt With

Defective and damp walls	175
„ roofs	140
„ eaves gutters and spouts	157
„ floors	69
„ sinks	11
„ wastepipes	8
„ plasterwork	217
„ windows and doors	213
„ staircases	22
„ paving in yards and passages	18
„ chimneys and stacks	20
„ setting around gulleys	16
„ firegrates	24
„ washing boilers	5
„ W.C. cisterns	6
„ W.C. basins	5
„ W.C. supply pipes	8
„ closets (roofs, floors, doors and seats)	39
„ ashpits (roofs, floors, doors and walls)	18
„ pail places and doors	16
Overcrowding	6
Houses or parts requiring cleansing	10
Accumulation of refuse	3
Choked and defective drains	27
Ventilating shafts	3
Insufficient light and ventilation	2
Miscellaneous	16

In two instances it was necessary for the Council to take legal action to secure the abatement of nuisances. In both cases the magistrate made nuisance orders for the work to be carried out within 28 days.

Housing

The direct labour building department completed 108 houses, 76 at Landgate and 36 at Riding Lane, 182 houses have still to be erected at this site. This rate, the same as last year, is not sufficient to cope with the influx of applications made by persons desiring accommodation in Council houses. There are approximately 950 families living in lodgings within the district who are still waiting to be allocated houses. This is an increase of 50 over last year and the number of overcrowded houses has increased by 1 to 147, the number of families living in overcrowded conditions being 327

The number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders was 15, while Orders were made in respect of 11 houses

Only 13 houses were erected by other persons or bodies.

Housing Statistics

Number of houses erected during year : —

(a) (i) By the local authority	108
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	13
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts : —	
(i) By the local authority (included under (a) (i) above	108
(ii) By other bodies (included under (a) (iii) above	Nil

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during year : —

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	347
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	1,378
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	34
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	61
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	15
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	302

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice : —

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	207
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3. Action under Statutory powers during the year : —

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 : —	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices : —	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts : —		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		62
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice : —		
(a) By owners		53
(b) By local authority in default of owners		Nil
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 : —		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made		11
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders		15
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings “ not to occupy ” were accepted by the local authority		Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 : —		
(1) Number of dwelling houses, sparate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made		Nil
(2) Number of Closing Orders which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit		Nil
(e) Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 : —		
(1) Number of clearance areas represented		Nil
(2) Number of houses concerned in (1)		Nil
(3) Number of areas cleared		Nil
(4) Number of houses concerned in (3)		Nil
(5) Number of residents displaced in (3) and (4)		Nil
(6) Number of houses built by local authority to re-house residents displaced under Clearance Orders		Nil
4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding : —		
(a) (i) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year		147
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein		337
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein		1,720
5. Housing Acts, 1949-54—Improvement grants, etc. : —		
(a) (i) Number of Schemes submitted :		
(a) by private individuals to local authority		2
(b) by local authority to Ministry		Nil

(ii) Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	2
(b) (i) Number of Schemes finally approved	2
(ii) Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	2
(iii) Number of additional separate dwellings to be provided under these approved Schemes	Nil
(c) Number of additional separate dwellings actually completed during the year	Nil

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

Three applications were made by tenants for Certificates of Disrepair. In two instances the owner had not served notice in the prescribed form as required by Section 25, therefore no certificates were issued. In the other case a certificate was issued and at a later date the landlord applied for a Certificate of Revocation but this was not granted.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-1954

Four licensed slaughtermen made application for renewal of their licences and each was granted.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

There was again a slight reduction in the number of pigs killed by domestic pig keepers, the particulars being as follows : —

	No. Slaughtered and examined	No. found to be affected with T.B.	Otherwise affected	% Otherwise affected
Pigs	25	Nil	1	4
Bullock	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

There was an improvement in the general standard of hygiene in food premises where food is prepared and exposed for sale and the co-operation of the majority of traders has had the effect over the last few years, of raising the standard of privately owned premises.

There are a few traders who, owing to old fashioned ideas are reluctant to make use of the hygienic materials and fittings that are now available for use in shops and food preparation rooms. The public are, I am pleased to state, at last becoming more food hygiene conscious. Shopkeepers who have reluctantly refitted their shops with these new materials have informed me that their custom has increased, and that the customers have expressed approval of the changes.

The licensed premises also show an improvement and licencees are now showing a greater regard to hygiene than was apparent a few years

ago. I would mention in dealing with licensed premises however that the abominable pail closets still exist at some of these places and at others the sanitary conveniences could be vastly improved. No provision is made for the public to wash their hands after visiting the W.C. I consider that the brewery companies should give early attention to these matters. The time when the working man and his wife were prepared to suffer inconvenience without a murmur has passed, they are more discriminating today and no doubt will choose a public house which offers the best comforts and facilities.

The following list gives details of the type of business together with the number in the district : —

Bakeries	24
Butchers and Cooked Meats	19
Cafes	7
Fish and Chip Shops	24
Greengrocers	14
Grocers and General Dealers	102
Ice Cream Manufacturers	2
Preparation of Cooked Meat and Fish	13
Fishmongers	6
Sweets and Confectionery	26
Licensed Premises and Off Licences (including Clubs)	40
Hawkers of Fruit and Vegetables	11

Food Condemned

Boiled Ham	400	lbs.
Tongue	124	"
Corned Beef	73	"
Corned Mutton	6	"
Pork Sausage	14	"
Jellied Veal	6	"
Lambs Tongue	2	"
Crabs	70	"
Salmon	117	"
Smoked Haddock	36	"
Cheese	24	"
Dried Milk	56	"
Stewed Steak	16	tins
Pork Luncheon Meat	11	"
Mixed Meat Loaf	1	"
Peas	37	"
Beans	108	"
Milk	65	"
Fruit	91	"
Tomatoes	20	"
Fish	1	"
Mint Sauce	2	Jars

Milk and Dairies

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The number of registered distributors is as follows : —

(1) Dairies in district	6
(2) Shops in district	35
(3) Premises outside district	6

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Dealer's Licences—Tuberculin Tested Milk	6
--	---

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

Retail Distributors : —

Pasteurised	10
Sterilised	39

Seventy-seven visits and inspections were made to dairies and shops where milk is sold, in addition to farms, etc., in connection with milk sampling, the particulars of which are as follows : —

Biological Test (Tuberculosis)	43
Negative	37
Positive	2
No result	4
Phosphatase Test	12
Satisfactory	12
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Methylene Blue Test	12
Satisfactory	12
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Turbidity Test	2
Satisfactory	2
Unsatisfactory	Nil

The necessary action required by Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 was taken and a restraining notice served on a farmer in connection with one of the positive biological results referred to above. A sum of £3/10/0d. was paid to the farmer for the cost of pasteurisation of the milk produced at his farm, over a period of eight weeks, the time that the restraining notice was in operation.

At the other farm all milk produced was pasteurised as normal procedure, therefore no restraining notice was necessary. Two animals were removed from the former farm between the date of taking the sample and the date when the result was received. The Divisional Veterinary Officer at subsequent examinations did not find any cows giving tuberculous milk.

The Veterinary Officer was, however, able to isolate one cow which he suspected was suffering from tuberculosis at the second farm. His suspicion was confirmed and the cow was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938.

Ice Cream

A greater number of ice cream samples were taken this year than during 1953, and again I am pleased that no grade 4 sample results were received.

The vehicles used by the street vendors are now better equipped to enable ice cream to be served under hygienic conditions, but I regret to state that some of the vendors neglect to make use of the facilities provided.

The results of the 94 samples taken are as follows : —

					Produced outside district	Produced within district
Provisional Grade	1	..	73	..	54	..... 19
„	2	...	14	...	14	..... Nil
„	3	.....	5	.....	4	..... 1
„	4	.....	Nil	.....	Nil	..... Nil
Void Samples		.....	2	.....	—	..... —

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Only one shop is licensed under the provision of this Act.

The Occupier is fully conversant with the requirements of the Act and no infringements have been observed.

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts

There was no change in the number of applications for petroleum storage licences which remained at 47, but the fees received were £1/10/0d. less at £29/10/0d.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

A continued improvement in the disposal of household refuse was maintained, but I am still not satisfied with the method of uncontrolled tipping carried out by the Council. I fully realize that it is most difficult and expensive to provide and use suitable material to cover exposed refuse deposited on refuse tips, but nuisances do arise from the tips that could be minimised if controlled tipping was adopted.

I must again mention the long “carry” necessitated owing to the design and layout of Council house estates. The cost of bin collection from housing sites per house is far in excess of that from private houses.

Four motor vehicles were engaged in collection of household and trade refuse and two motor vehicles for pail closets. In addition the one horse is still used for short haul collections and to collect refuse from premises which are not easily accessible by the motors.

5,511 loads of dry and 3,540 loads of wet refuse were removed during the year.

Closet Accommodation

Pails demolished	Pails converted	W.C.s erected	Ashpits abolished	Bins provided
9	72	201	8	135

Total Closet Accommodation in the District

Number of pail closets at end of 1953 (approximately)	2,178
Less number converted	72
Less number demolished	9
	81
Total number of pail closets at end of 1954	2,097
Number of water closets at end of 1953 (approximately)	4,065
Number of conversions	72
Number of fresh water closets at new houses	121
Number of extra water closets erected	8
	201
Number of water closets at end of 1954	4,266
Number of water closets included above	16

Ashpit Accommodation

Number of dry ashpits at end of 1953 (approximately)	2,001
Number of dry ashpits abolished during 1954	8
	1,993
Number of moveable ashbins at end of 1953 (approximately)	3,941
Number of ashbins substituted for fixed receptacles during 1954	14
Number of new houses	121
	4,076
Less number of houses demolished using bins	—
Number of moveable ashbins at 31st December, 1954	4,076

Although the number of pail closets converted was more than double that of last year, the number remaining is still considerable. Conditions prevailing at the sewage works prevent any wholesale compulsory schemes under Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936, but I am impatiently awaiting the time when action can be taken.

Salvage

Waste food collection ceased early in the year but the collection and disposal of wastepaper continued. This vital material is urgently needed by the paper mills to supply industry. I have been informed that the paper mills are unable to satisfy their customers' requirements and every scrap of waste paper should be saved and collected. The money received from salvage was equal to a 4d. rate.

The figures are as follows : —

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.
Waste Paper	181	13	3
Kitchen Waste	13	11	—

The value of this material was £1,260/15/7d.

Factories Act, 1937

Number of factories on register : 125.

	Inspec- tions	Written Notiices	Prosecu- tions
Number with mechanical power	61	Nil	Nil
Number without mechanical power	96	1	Nil
	163	1	Nil

Defects Found

	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	4	4
Other nuisances	5	5
	9	9

Registered Premises

Bakers and confectioners	24
Plumbers and painters	7
Joiners and builders	17
Shoeing smiths	1
Wheelwrights	1
Saddlers	1
Motor and cycle repairers	18
Lock and hinge manufacturers	3
Laundries	1
Printers	1
Cabinet makers and upholsterers	2
Mineral water manufacturers and bottlers	2
Ice Cream manufacturers	2
Sausage makers	10
Wholesale chemist	1
Cotton weavers	1
Boot, shoe and clog repairers	10
Gasholders	1
Electricians	3
Sawmills	6
Contractors	1
Air compressors, etc.	2
Monumental Masons	1
Agricultural machinery repairs	2
Firelighter makers	1

Demolition contractors	1
Cattle food preparation	1
General Engineering	4
	<hr/>
	125
	<hr/>

Section 110

There are five outworkers resident in the district employed by firms carrying on business in the City of Manchester.

Other Matters

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	Nil
Notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories	2

Rag Flock and Other Filling Material Acts, 1951

No premises are licensed or registered, but 8 inspections have been made at upholsterers' and cabinet makers' works.

Smoke Abatement

During the time that eighteen observations of factory chimneys were being made, no infringement of the byelaws was observed. The attention of stokers had to be drawn in some instances however, to erratic stoking which caused periodic outbursts of black smoke.

The supervision of the spoilbanks continued throughout the year and I am pleased to report that strict precautions are taken by the manager of the Park Colliery at the Garswood Park spoilbank. The employees engaged on the work of consolidation appear to realize their responsibilities and have carried out their duties efficiently.

Slight combustion at the old Park Colliery spoilbank at Garswood still gives rise to a small amount of noxious smell, but I am satisfied that no danger to public health now exists.

All other cases of infectious disease were investigated and records of all cases made.

Infectious Disease

During the year slight outbreaks of Poliomyelitis and Paratyphoid Fever caused a considerable amount of extra work for the staff of the Public Health Department. Although only eight positive cases were notified, four of each disease, all contacts, employees in food shops, school children's homes, etc., had to be visited and advice was given in an effort to restrict the spread of these diseases.

Number of positive cases	62
Number of visits to premises re infectious disease	294
Number of houses disinfected	39
Number of rooms disinfected	40

Disinfestation

There was no reduction in the complaints received from householders regarding infestations by ants, but less action has been necessary in dealing with other pests and vermin.

The number of disinfestations carried out is as follows :—

Council houses, 22

Other houses, 33.

Rodent Control

The campaign against rats and mice was continued throughout the year and the full-time rodent operator gave immediate attention to all complaints received. He also maintained a search of the district to find any evidence of rodent infestation. He treated 75 infestations in addition to those reported by the public to the office.

Quarterly and annual returns are submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the following table shows the type and number of infestations dealt with. The 10% test and two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out.

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	TOTAL
1. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1954 as a result (a) of notification of (b) other wise	(a) Nil	30	Nil	9	39
	(b) 52	998	84	249	1324
2. Number of properties (under 1) found to be infested by rats	Major Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Minor 22	73	Nil	4	99
3. Number of properties (under 1) found to be seriously infested by mice	Nil	10	Nil	5	15
4. Number of infested properties (under 2 and 3) treated by the Local Authority	22	83	Nil	9	114

Public Conveniences

The public conveniences received constant attention and were maintained at the high standard of previous years.

Damage by youths continued but not to the same extent as last year.

Problem Families

A considerable amount of time is expended in dealing with families coming within the above category and, I am sorry to say, in some cases

the task seems insurmountable. Advice is given and parents are persuaded to give more attention to the needs of their children, but some parents are not competent enough to learn, others make an effort for a short time and then return to their previous way of living, while others adopt a defiant attitude.

In the majority of cases where the parents are still living together, the father is of the type who is unwilling to attend to his work for regular periods but who desires more than his fair share of spending money. In consequence his wife becomes indifferent to the conditions in her home and neglects her children and allows the house to become dirty and neglected.

If regular visits could be maintained to these houses no doubt improvement could be obtained, but owing to pressure of other work I am afraid that at some periods the visits made are too irregular to be of lasting influence.

At this point I must acknowledge the excellent work carried out by the County Council Health Visitors in this sphere of duty.

Food and Drugs Acts, 1938-1950

Action taken by the County Medical Officer of Health's Department during 1954 is as follows : —

A total of 88 samples was obtained, of these 43 were of milk (this total includes one Channel Islands' milk) and 45 others comprised : —

3 Self raising flour.	2 Beans in tomato, canned.
1 Cream, canned.	1 Butter beans, canned.
2 Pepper, white.	1 Camphorated oil.
1 Coffee.	1 Picealilli.
1 Pork sausage.	1 Mixed pickles.
1 Butter.	1 Lemon eurd.
6 Margarine.	1 Marmalade.
2 Cooking fat.	2 Jam.
2 Lard.	1 Minecmeat.
1 Tea.	1 Xmas pudding.
1 Baking powder.	1 Ground almonds.
1 Golden raising powder.	1 Cod liver oil.
1 Castor oil.	1 Sultanas.
1 Oatmeal.	1 Currants.
4 Meat, canned.	1 Prunes.

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following : —

Sample	Result of Analysis	Action taken
1 formal milk	The freezing point indicated the presenece of 0.8% of extraneous water.	Vendor eautioned and further samples obtained.
1 Camphorated oil	Not prepared with arachis oil as required by the B.P.	Packers communi- cated with and stock withdrawn from sale.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary and Health Committee, the Clerk of the Council, and other officers and staff for the co-operation and understanding I have received during the year.

I also desire to thank Dr. G. A. Fulton, Mr. Brennan and Mrs. Lowe for their continued help and co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

F. BURROWS,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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